61-197

FOR RELEASE UPON PRESENTATION
Expected 10:30 a.m.

Statement

of

Mr. James E. Webb
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

before the

Subcommittee on Independent Offices
and General Government Matters
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

June 21, 1961

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

The bill before you is H.R. 7445, passed by the House of Representatives on June 7, which provides $1,200,000,000 in new obligational authority for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Some aspects of the budgetary and legislative history are pertinent to our discussion of the bill.

The original FY 1962 budget submission in January of this year for NASA was for $1,109,630,000. On March 24, the President submitted a request for an increase of $125 million in the civilian space program, making a total of $1,235,300,000. This submission was (1) to fund more adequately the F-1 1-1/2 million-pound-thrust engine which continues to show real promise as a basic building block

for large boosters, and (2) to provide funds to step up the C-2 version of the Saturn booster to increase the Saturn capability from about 20 thousand pounds in a low earth orbit to over 40 thousand pounds. There were other items included, but they were all based on the President's decision that we should proceed at once to plan and carry out manned space flight projects beyond the Mercury program and to proceed as rapidly as possible toward the practical utilization of the scientific and technological information and capability gained through our space effort. To utilize the technology which was emerging from our investment in space, work toward applications of tremendous value was included in such areas as communications satellites and weather satellites.

On June 7, the House of Representatives passed the bill with a decrease of $35,300,000 from the President's initial requests.

On May 25, President Kennedy reported to the Congress that, regarding the space program, "with the advice of the Vice President, who is Chairman of the National Space Council, we have examined where we are strong and where we are not, where we may succeed and where we may not." The President then made additional policy recommendations, in these words: "Now it is time to take longer strides -- time for a great

new American enterprise -- time for this nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement, which in many ways may hold the key to our future on earth."

Having stated these views with respect to space, the President then said: "Let it be clear -- and this is a judgment which the members of Congress must finally make -- let it be clear that I am asking the Congress and the country to accept a firm commitment to a new course of action -- a course which will last for many years and carry very heavy costs . . . ."

The following day, May 26, the President submitted additional estimates of new obligational authority needed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the fiscal year 1962, amounting to $549 million.

I should like to make some brief observations on the importance of the science and technology we will evolve as we push on with our program for landing a three-man American team on the moon. The influence of the technical progress required to do this will be felt throughout our economy and will add zest and stimulation to education in all its branches. Many of the instruments, equipment, power sources, and techniques which we must devise as we accelerate our push into space will be adaptable to a host of other uses.

The result will be a great variety of new consumer goods and industrial processes that will raise our standard of living and return tremendous benefits to us in practically every profession and activity.

This science and technology will almost certainly differ from what might have come into being without the drive and integrating force of a major space effort. Moreover, the goal of mastering space is essential insurance against finding ourselves, in two decades or less, with a technology inferior to that of the Soviet Union which will undoubtedly continue driving forward along the space frontier. It is also insurance against military use being made of the new technology to jeopardize our security.

I should like to indicate the main areas of increase proposed in the President's May 25th message to the Congress.

The total of $549 million includes the following:

For the Apollo spacecraft, the three-man vehicle capable of safe return from the Moon at 36 thousand feet per second, and for supporting research facilities and work in the life sciences, $202,500,000;

For the F-1 engine, the 1,500,000-pound-thrust liquid-propellant engine,

used in clusters for the very large vehicle required for

the manned lunar mission (called Nova) with necessary test and other facilities, and activities related to an aggressive beginning on the Nova vehicle, $121.5 million;

For unmanned lunar exploration in preparation for manned missions, $56 million;

For general supporting research, tracking-station facilities, sounding-rocket programs, and advanced-facility design required in the manned lunar program, $74 million;

To speed up both the research and a start toward a transitional system of communications satellites, $50 million;

For engine development for the nuclear rocket Rover, $23 million;

For the purchase and launch of additional Tiros weather satellites so that one can be kept continuously in orbit until the Weather Bureau is able to place in operation its world-wide system based on the Nimbus satellite, $22 million.

The above increases, added to those previously recommended by President Eisenhower and President Kennedy, constitute a total budget request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the fiscal year 1962 of $1,784,300,000. My associates and I are prepared to present the details of this total program.

The sums requested are necessary to an adequate national space program and to a rapid build-up toward the accomplishment

of the objectives which have been stated by the President. These requests, taken together with those of the other agencies, constitute a hard-hitting, well-rounded, national space effort.

In the execution of this very important program, the President has directed each of us holding a major management responsibility to work closely with the officials in other agencies concerned, to make every effort to use the most efficient resources available to the Government wherever they may be, and to keep the Vice President and staff of the Space Council thoroughly abreast of our efforts. I would like to say that I have never found better teamwork among the agencies than has been achieved in the development of this program.

61-137